3years in the landing obligation in Europe: Where do we stand, what have we learnt?

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Publication date:
2018

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

3 years in the landing obligation in Europe: Where do we stand, what have we learnt?

H2020 DiscardLess (2015-2019)

Pr. Clara Ulrich, DTU Aqua, Denmark, coordinator
on behalf of the DiscardLess Consortium

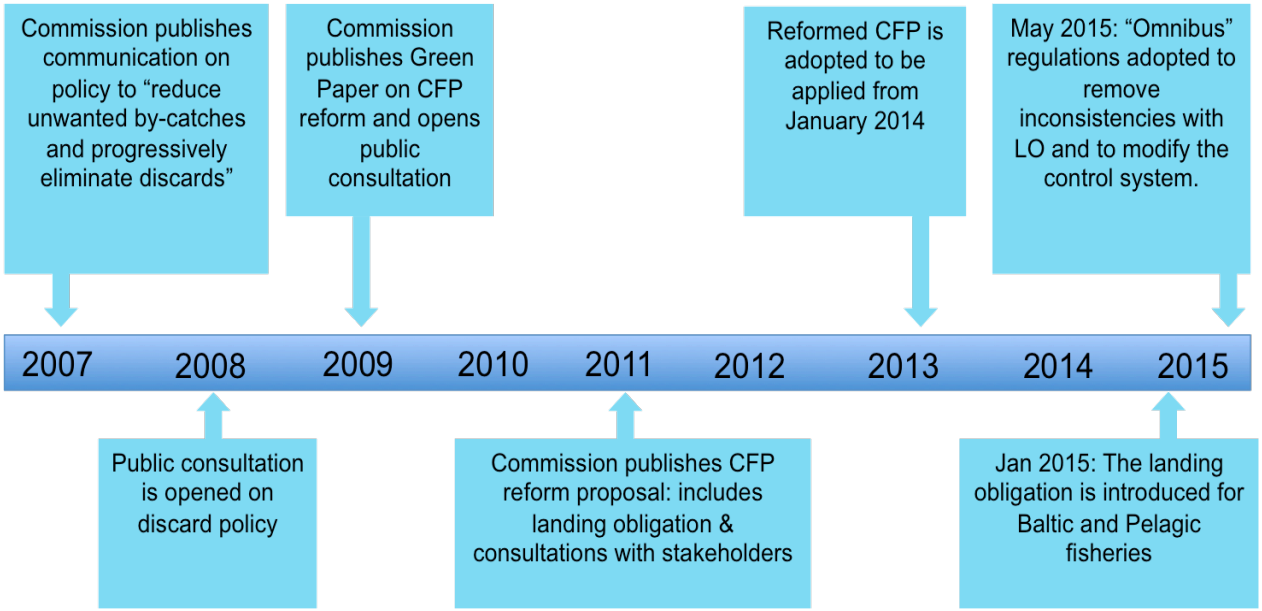
$$M2_i = \frac{\sum_j \frac{dR}{dt} N_j \frac{\varphi_{ji}}{\varphi_j}}{N_i \omega_i}$$

$$\Delta \int_a^b \varepsilon \Theta^{\sqrt{17}} + \Omega \int \delta e^{i\pi} = \infty \neq \{2.7182818284\} \chi^2 \gg \sum !$$

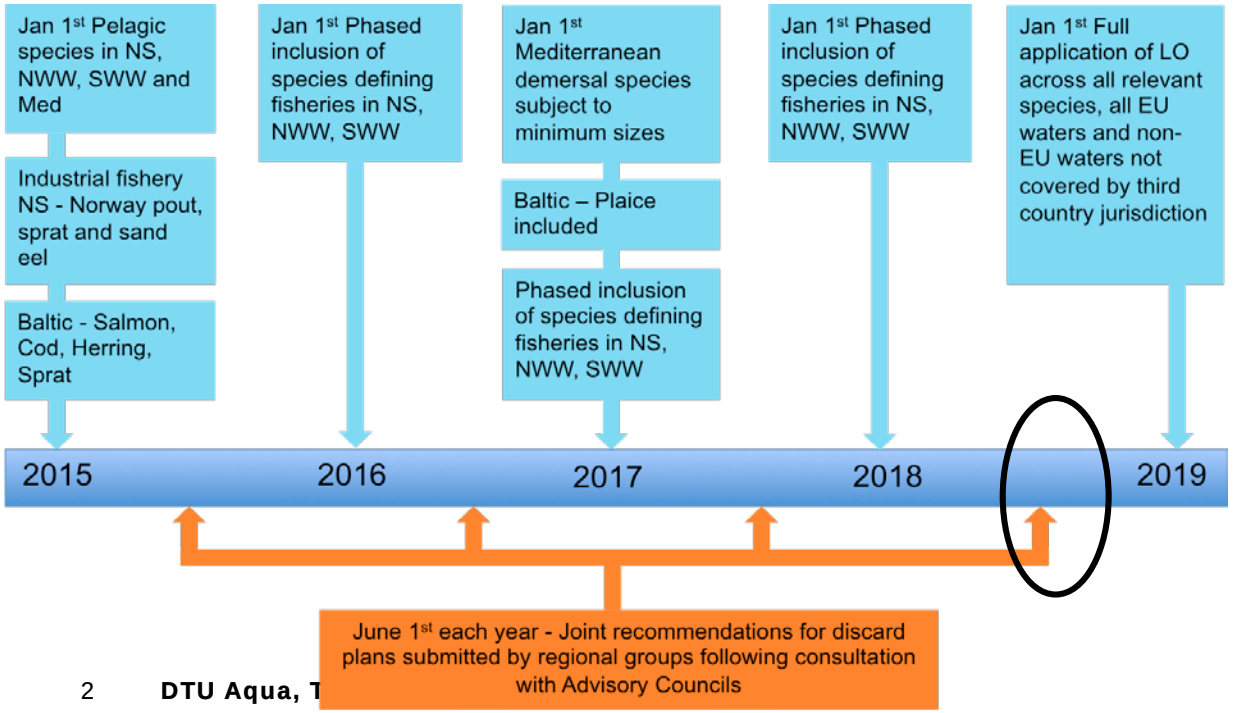
DTU Aqua
National Institute of Aquatic Resources

www.discardless.eu

The EU Landing Obligation



Preparation



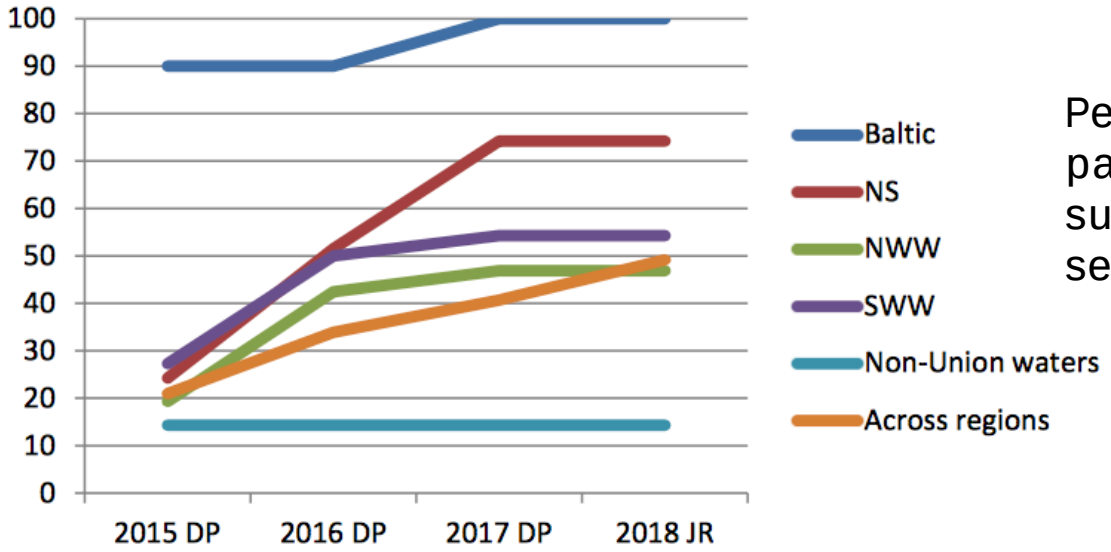
Implementation

Fitzpatrick and Nielsen, 2016

Where do we stand in the middle of 2018?

Progresses on the regulatory side….

- 19 Regional Discard Plans adopted since 2014, laying down the calendar of implementation (species*fisheries) and the exemptions (high survivability, de minimis)



Percentage of TACs partially or fully subject to the LO by sea basin and year

- A lot of progresses on scientific foundations for evaluation of plans and progresses (ICES, STECF) : exemptions, monitoring of undersize landings, member states reporting

- Changes in the control operations (“Last Haul” Eur. Fisheries Control Agency)

STECF PLEN 18-01, SWD/2018/329

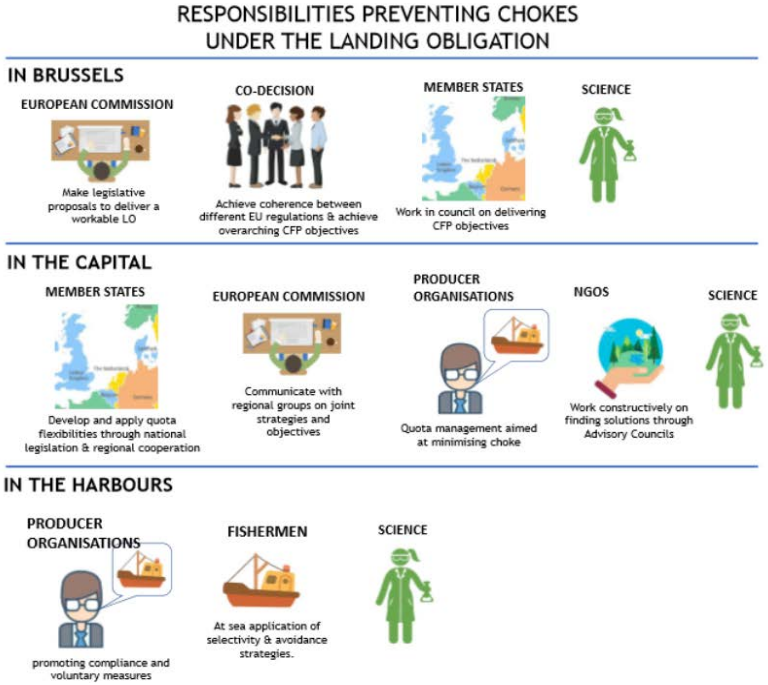
Where do we stand in the middle of 2018?

Progresses on reaching common understandings on discard causes and choke species ….

Choke categories:

- Category 1: Sufficient quota at Member State level, issue at PO/individual level
- Category 2: Insufficient quota at Member State level, relative stability issue
- Category 3: Insufficient quota at EU level, overfished stock
- Category 4: Economic choking.

Choke situation not observed yet! Only speculations on what may happen if the landing obligation is fully enforced



Where do we stand in the middle of 2018?

But very little visible progresses so far….

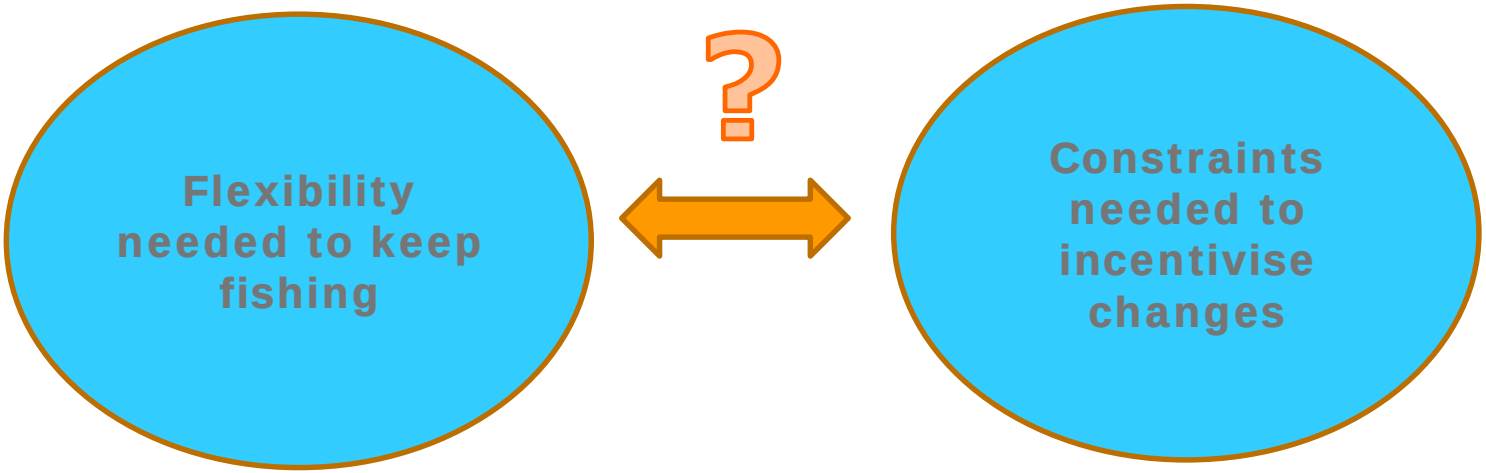
- Reported / Landed discards very low
- No obvious changes in selectivity/behaviour
- Very little use of EU operational funding (EMFF) allocated to landing obligation
- Still strong reluctance of the fishing industry

But also…

- TAC increases (“top-ups”) but discarding continues…
- Removal of TACs (dab and flounder)…
- Changes to prohibited species (dogfish)…
- MultiAnnual plans with Fmsy upper…
- Reduction in the number of stocks with MSY advice…

STECF PLEN 18-01, SWD/2018/329

The landing obligation dilemma



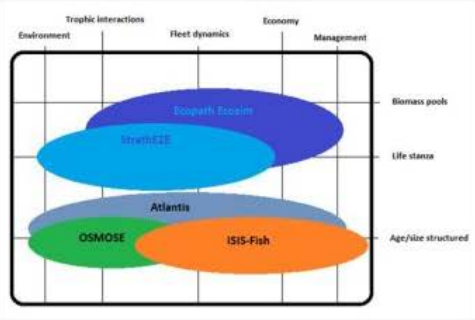
- Different approaches in different Member States

From STECF, 2018 and Fitzpatrick & Nielsen, 2018

DiscardLess: What can Science do to help??

DiscardLess develops for example:

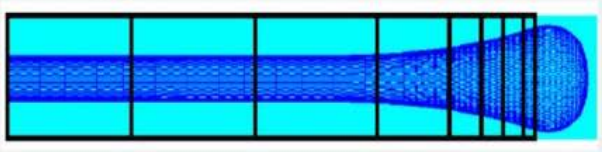
Models…



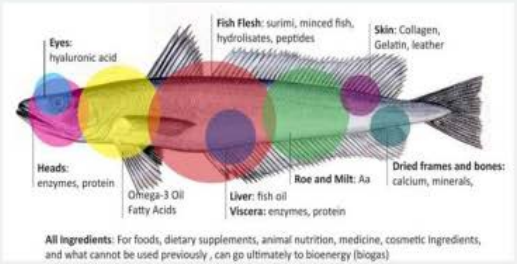
Exchanges with stakeholders and policymakers…

Economic data and scenarios…

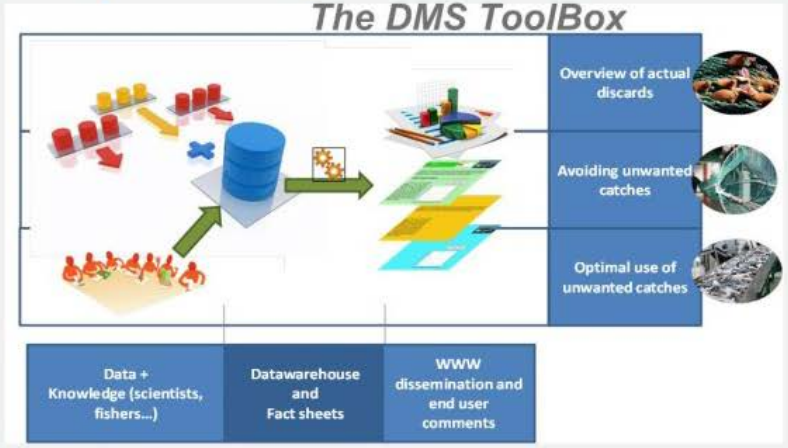
Technology…



Market analyses…

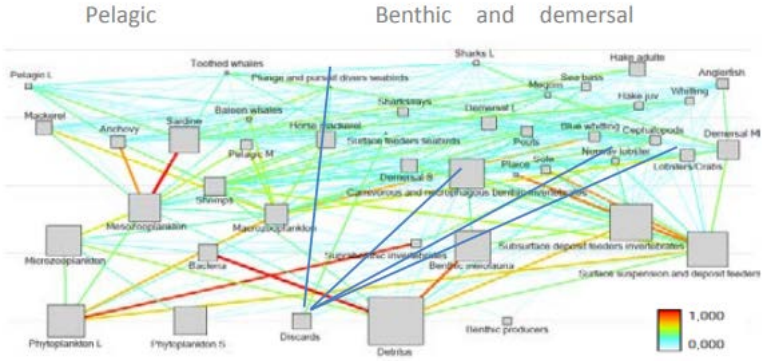


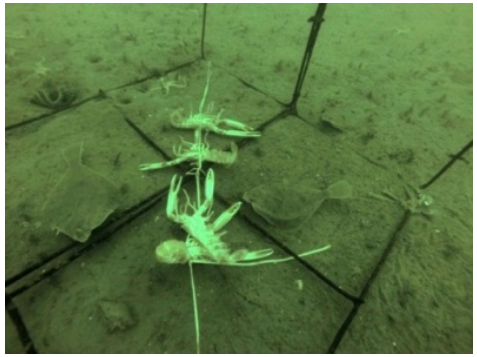
The DMS ToolBox



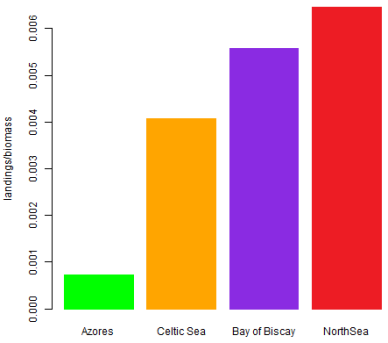
Question 1: Is a discard ban good for the ecosystem?

Lead: Marie Savina, IFREMER, France

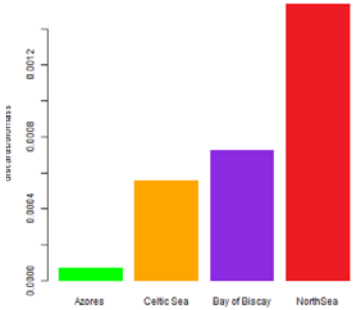


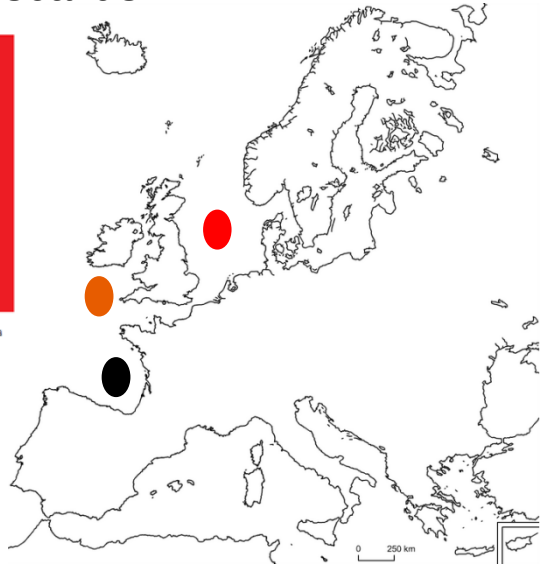


Fishing pressure



Amount of discards





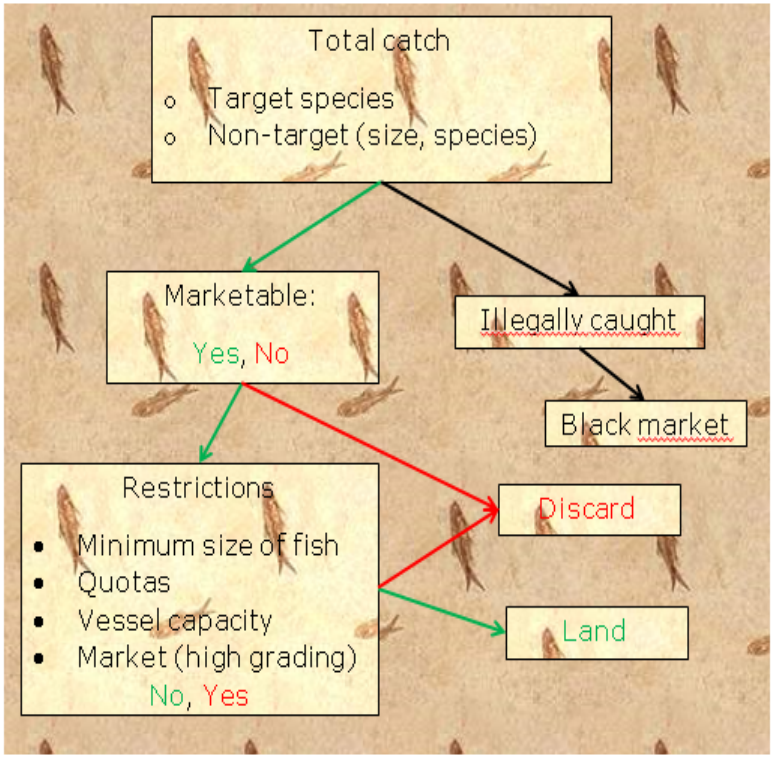
At **regional** scale:

- Seabirds most sensitive
- Foodweb effects beyond scavengers are limited
- Reduction in mortality is the largest ecological effect (achieving Fmsy!)
- Local effects are less well known

Question 2: Can a discard ban be good for fishers?

Lead: Peder Andersen & Ayoe Hoff, IFRO, Denmark / Katia Frangoudes, UBO, France

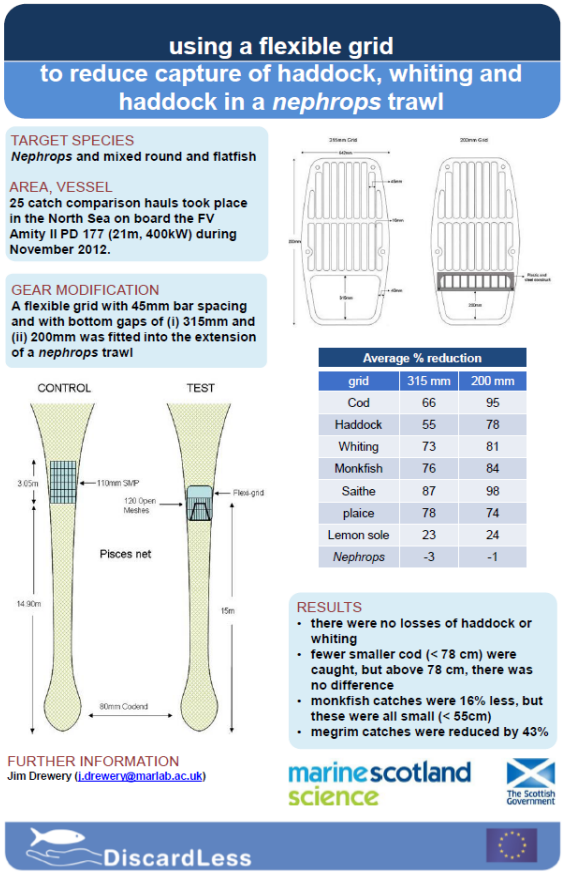
- Bioeconomic models
- stakeholders interviews: fishers, administrators, EnvNGO's, auction houses, processing industries.
- Short-term economic impacts
- Negative view of the LO
- Incentives discussed



Question 3: Rethinking gear selectivity

Lead: Barry O' Neill, DTU, DK

Selectivity catalogue, >60 factsheets,



using a flexible grid
to reduce capture of haddock, whiting and haddock in a *nephrops* trawl

TARGET SPECIES
Nephrops and mixed round and flatfish

AREA, VESSEL
25 catch comparison hauls took place in the North Sea on board the FV Amity II PD 177 (21m, 400kW) during November 2012.

GEAR MODIFICATION
A flexible grid with 45mm bar spacing and with bottom gaps of (i) 315mm and (ii) 200mm was fitted into the extension of a *nephrops* trawl

CONTROL TEST

Pisces net

Average % reduction		
grid	315 mm	200 mm
Cod	66	95
Haddock	55	78
Whiting	73	81
Monkfish	76	84
Saithe	87	98
plaice	78	74
Lemon sole	23	24
Nephrops	-3	-1

RESULTS
- there were no losses of haddock or whiting
- fewer smaller cod (< 78 cm) were caught, but above 78 cm, there was no difference
- monkfish catches were 16% less, but these were all small (< 55cm)
- megrim catches were reduced by 43%

FURTHER INFORMATION
Jim Drewery (j.drewery@marlab.ac.uk)

marinescotland science

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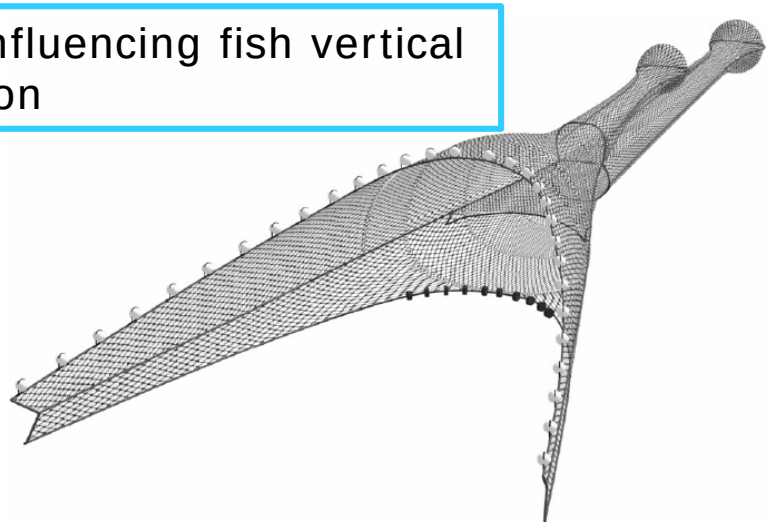
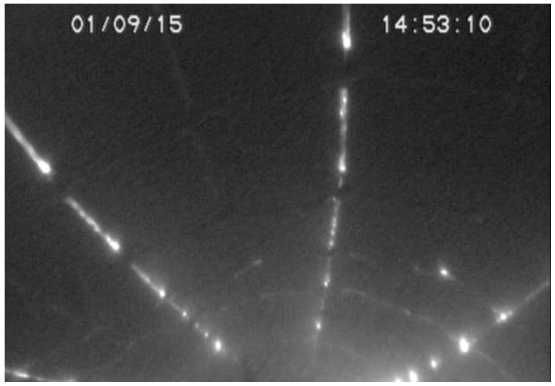
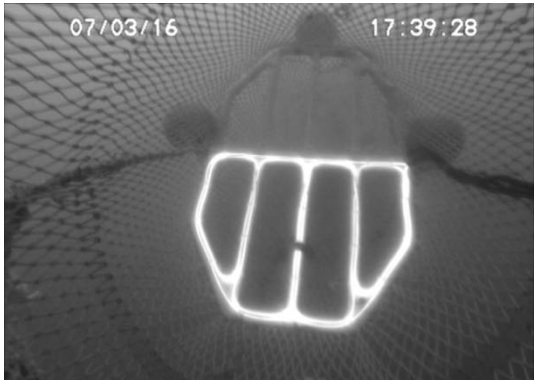
http://www.discardless.eu/selectivity_manual

Factors influencing fish vertical distribution



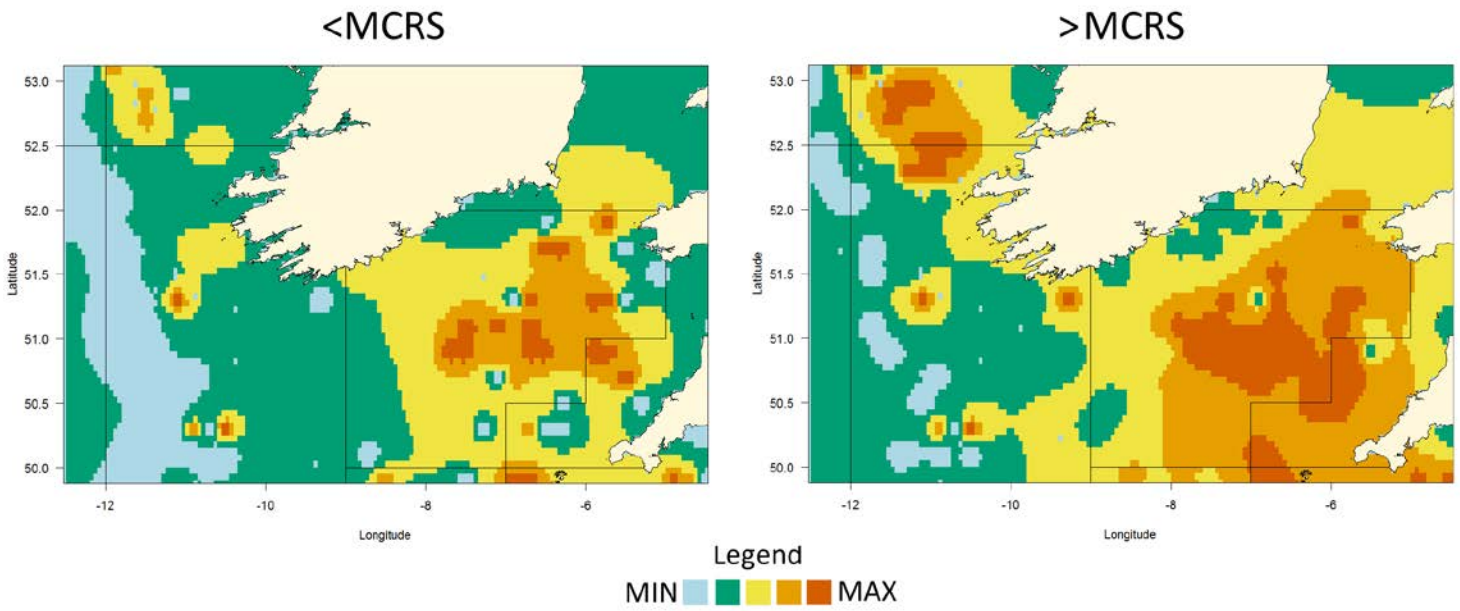
Ongoing analyses of the effects of light



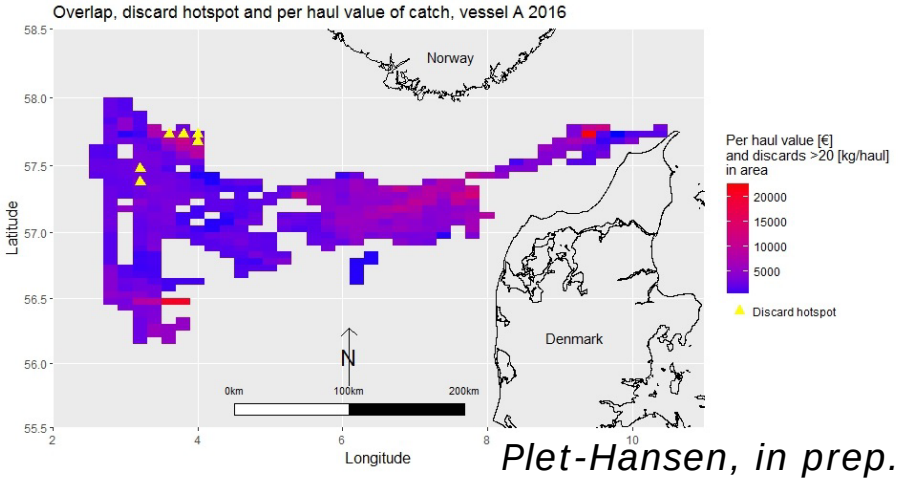


Question 4: Reducing unwanted catches by changing when and where to fish

Lead: Dave Reid, MI, Ireland



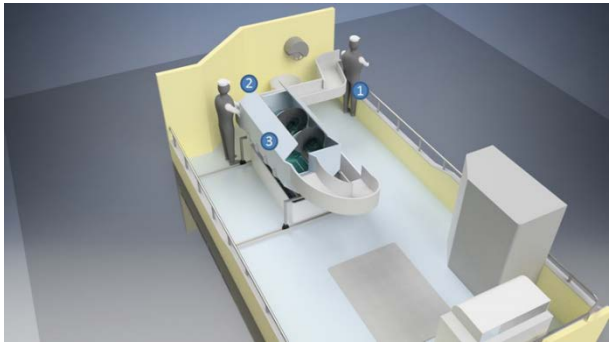
- Tentative prediction of ”hot-spots”
- Real-time closures
- Is this useful to fishers?



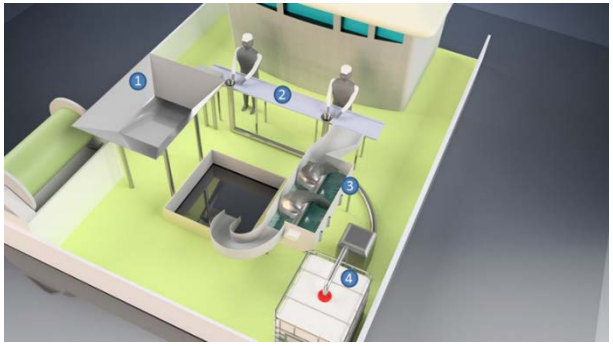
Plet-Hansen, in prep.

Question 5. Onboard handling of unwanted catches

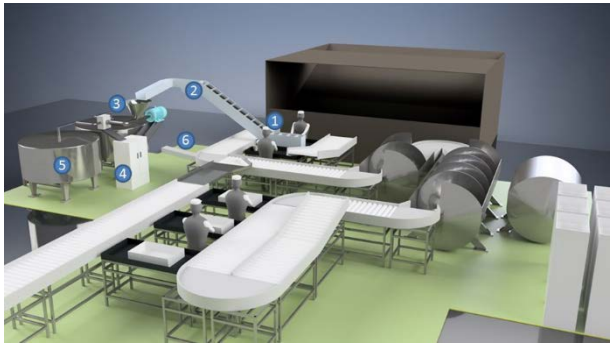
Lead: Jonas R. Viðarsson, MATIS, Iceland



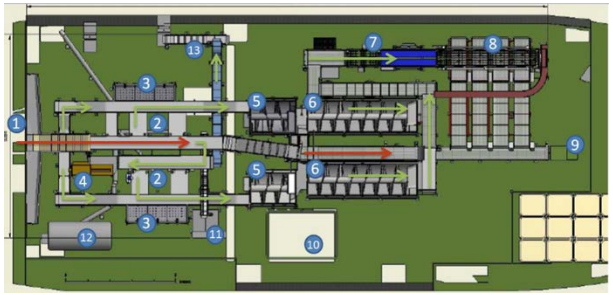
Coastal Vessel 11m



Bottom trawler 23 m



Bottom trawler 39 m

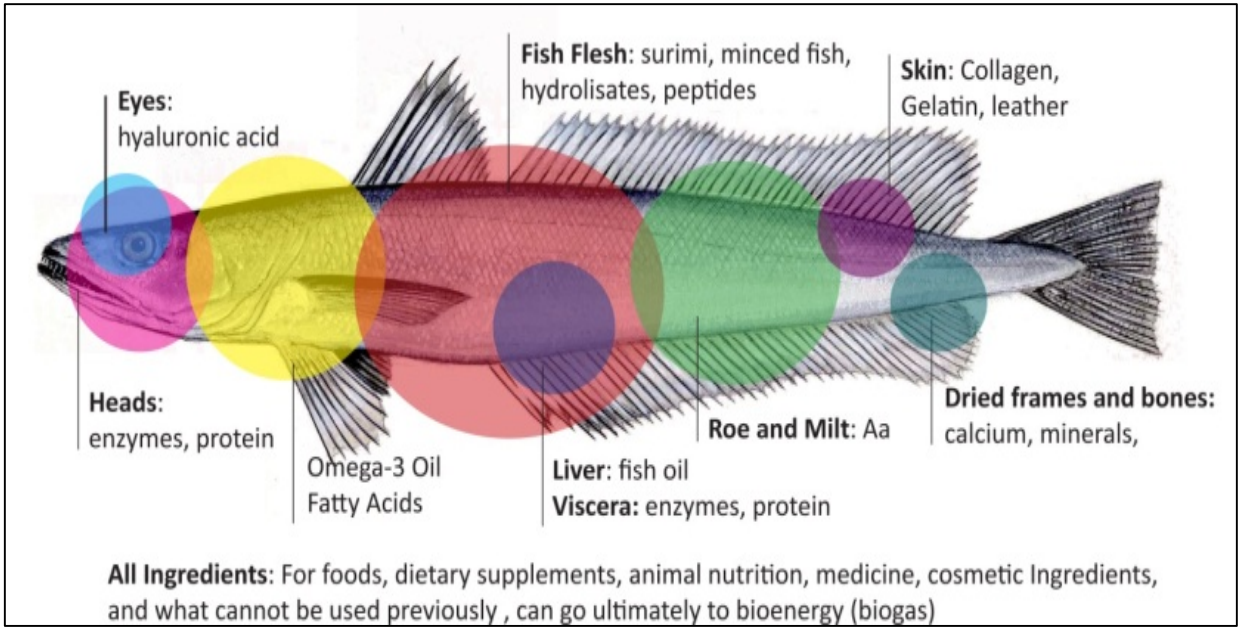


Large trawler 50 m

- Many options already exist… mainly for larger trawlers
- Investment Payback time estimated 1-2 years

Question 6. Valorisation of unwanted catches

Lead: Begoña Perez Villareal, AZTI, Spain

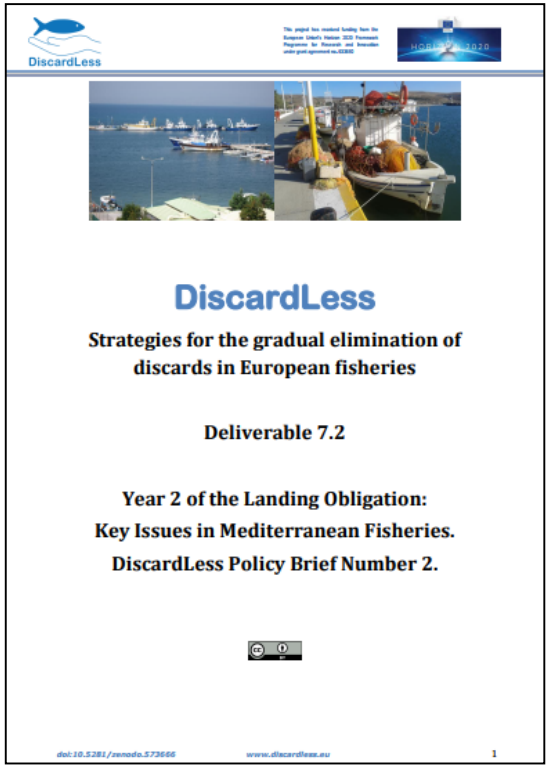


- More than 30 options identified for fish<MCRS
- Food, bio-products, feed, industrial uses, energy, agronomic uses
- Use of heads and visceras

Question 7: Telling our stories

- Policy briefs
- Stakeholders interviews
- Scientific papers, opinion articles, videos, flyers, posters, newsletters

Lead: Kåre Nolde Nielsen, UiT, Norway; Clara Ulrich, Denmark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Strategies for the gradual elimination of discards in European fisheries

Deliverable 7.2

Year 2 of the Landing Obligation:
Key Issues in Mediterranean Fisheries.
DiscardLess Policy Brief Number 2.


DiscardLess

DiscardLess

Newsletter No. 3, February 2017

Coordinator's welcome

Clara Ulrich, DTU Aqua, Denmark

Welcome to the third newsletter of *DiscardLess*! We are approaching the end of the first half of the project, which we will celebrate in March 2017.

We are driven by our quest to providing an answer to the question "***What can Science do to help with the Landing Obligation?***. We believe that Science cannot force changes, but **Science can gather and share useful knowledge to inform changes.**

These first two years have been very productive, and we are collecting a great deal of knowledge on all aspects associated with the implementation of the Landing Obligation (LO). Some of this is already published, and our website http://www.discardless.eu and twitter account @DISCARDLESS are regularly updated. Check our publications list, conference activities and deliverables!

This autumn, our progress was presented to the DG Research of the European Commission. The next major milestone for us is our Mid-Term event that will take place in FAO headquarters in Rome in early March 2017. Check out our **stakeholders conference on March 9-10th 2017**, where we invite you to hear and discuss the outcomes of our work.

In this newsletter, we have summarised the main results achieved so far after 20 months of research. These are presented according to the various themes and topics which form the backbone of our project. They will also be presented in more details at the conference.

I wish you a pleasant reading and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!

www.discardless.eu @DISCARDLESS

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What can Science do to help?

- Bringing information / discussing solutions
- Scientific support to discard reduction by
  - Analysing issues at EU, regional, national, fishery and individual levels
  - Making knowledge on existing options easily available and shared
  - Exploring new ideas, including technical feasibility, cost-benefits, ecological and economic sustainability, and controllability
- A lot of direct contacts and meetings across all areas and all types of stakeholders, analysis of incentives and reluctances
- Landing Obligation: There is no way back… but we are not there yet!

The Book

DiscardLess

www.discardless.eu

40 kg box of discards

Lisa Borges, 2002